

## Message Text

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51  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /070 W

----- 073545

R 271030Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 265

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 4750

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT BEGINS

REF: ISLAMABAD 3245

1. BUDGET SESSION OF PARLIAMENT OPENED MAY 26.  
PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTIES CONTINUED THE BOYCOTT  
BEGUN FOLLOWING ARREST OF OPPOSITION LEADER WALI  
RAHAN IN FEBRUARY. IN MOVE WHICH TOUCHED OFF EXCHANGE  
OF ACCUSATIONS OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROLONGED BOY-  
COTT OF ASSEMBLY PROCEEDS GS, (INDEPENDENT) SARDAR  
SHAUKAT HYAT, APPARENTLY CARRYING THE BALL FOR HIS  
ABSENT COLLEAGUES, SAID ANY OPPOSITION MOVE TO RETURN  
TO FLOOR WAS IN HANDS OF PM. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS  
HYAT (WHO PERSONALLY OPPOSES BOYCOTT AND REGULARLY  
ATTENDS SESSIONS) WAS ATTEMPTING TO STIMULATE NEGOTIA-  
TIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION. UDF HAS  
DEMANDED THAT GOVERNMENT INDICATE ITS WILLINGNESS TO  
ABIDE BY FEBRUARY 6 AGREEMENT (PROVIDING FOR GREATER  
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CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION IN PARLIAMENTARY

PROCEEDINGS, PARA 9 REFTEL).

2. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S SPEECH TO NA WAS HARD HITTING, PLACING ONUS ON OPPOSITION TO RETURN BEFORE SYSTEM OF CONSULTATION/COOPERATION COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE WOULD NOT, HE SAID, OFFER THEM A "FACE-SAVING" DEVICE TO END THEIR BOYCOTT. HE CHARGED OPPOSITION IS "UNDEMOCRATIC" FOR FAILING TO REPRESENT CONSTITUENTS INTERESTS IN ASSEMBLIES. WHILE IGNORING THEIR DUTIES, THE OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARIANS, HE ALLEGED, WERE WILLING TO COLLECT THEIR ALLOWANCES AND UTILIZE THEIR PRIVILEGES. HE TOOK AMBIGUOUS LINE ON VALIDITY OF FEBRUARY 6 AGREEMENT. SUBSEQUENT UDF MEETING LATER SAME DAY DECIDED THAT IN ABSENCE OF ANY HOPE FOR MEANINGFUL TALKS WITH TREASURY BENCH LEADERS THE UDF WOULD ATTEND NA ON MAY 27 ONLY LONG ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN ITS REASON FOR CONTINUING BOYCOTT.

3. NA IS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS LEFT-OVER LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS--MUCH OF IT LARGEY TECHNICAL--UNTIL JUNE 3 WHEN RAILWAY BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED. NATIONAL BUDGET WILL FOLLOW JUNE 7 AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (SUPPLEMENTARIES) WILL BE TAKEN UP JUNE 17. FOR REMAINDER OF SESSION, EXPECTED TO LAST SIX WEEKS, NA WILL RESUME LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS. SENATE WILL MEET FOR SHORT SESSION DURING THIS TIME (IT DOES NOT DISCUSS MONEY MATTERS).

BYROADE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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